

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

MICHAEL ROBERTS,)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) Civil Action No. 05-454 GMS
)
M/V SHINANO REEFER,)
Defendant.)
)

SCHEDULING ORDER

This 21st day of March 2006, the Court having conducted a Rule 16 Scheduling Conference pursuant to Local Rule 16.2(b) on January 31, 2006, and the parties having determined after discussion that the matter cannot be resolved at this juncture by settlement, voluntary mediation or binding arbitration;

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. **Discovery**: All fact discovery in this case shall be initiated so that it will be completed on or before October 2, 2006. Expert discovery in this case shall be initiated so that it will be completed on or before January 3, 2007. Expert reports shall be served on or before November 3, 2006, and answering expert reports shall be served on or before December 4, 2006, rebuttal expert reports shall be completed by January 3, 2007.

a. **Discovery and Scheduling Matters**: Should counsel find they are unable to resolve a discovery or scheduling matter, the party seeking the relief shall contact chambers at (302)

573-6470 to schedule a telephone conference. Not less than forty-eight hours prior to the teleconference, the parties shall file with the court, via electronic means (CM/ECF), a **joint, non-argumentative** letter agenda not to exceed two (2) pages outlining the issue(s) in dispute. A sample letter can be located on this court's website at www.ded.uscourts.gov. Should the court find further briefing necessary upon conclusion of the telephone conference, unless otherwise directed, the party seeking relief shall file with the court a **TWO PAGE LETTER**, exclusive of exhibits, describing the issues in contention. The responding party shall file within five (5) days from the date of service of the opening letter an answering letter of no more than **TWO PAGES**. The party seeking relief may then file a reply letter of no more than **TWO PAGES** within three (3) days from the date of service of the answering letter.

2. **Confidential Information and Papers filed under Seal:** Should counsel find it will be necessary to apply to the court for a protective order specifying terms and conditions for the disclosure of confidential information, they should confer and attempt to reach an agreement on a proposed form of order and submit it to the court within ten (10) days from the date of this order. When filing papers under seal, counsel should deliver to the Clerk an original and two copies of the papers.

If, after making a diligent effort, the parties are unable to agree on the contents of the joint, proposed protective order, then they shall follow the dispute resolution process outlined in paragraph 3(a).

3. **Settlement Conference:** Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §636, this matter is referred to the United States Magistrate for the purpose of exploring the possibility of a settlement. If the parties agree that the possibility of settlement may be enhanced by such referral, the parties shall contact

Magistrate Judge Thynge to schedule a settlement conference with counsel and clients.

4. **Case Dispositive Motions:** All case dispositive motions and an opening brief and affidavits, if any, in support of the motion shall be served and filed on or before September 15, 2006. Briefing will be presented pursuant to the court's Local Rules, unless the parties agree to an alternative briefing schedule. Any such agreement shall be in writing and filed with the Court for the Court's approval. Any request for extensions of time as set forth in this Scheduling Order **must** be accompanied by an explanation or your request will be denied.

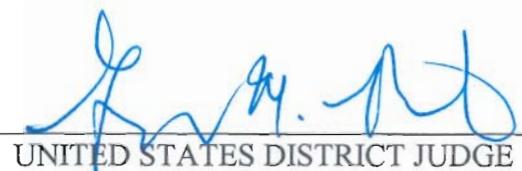
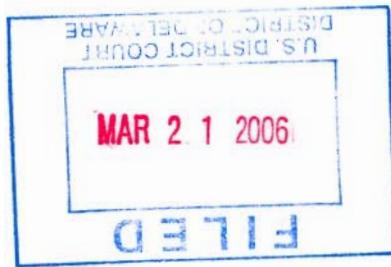
5. **Applications by Motion:** Except as provided in this Scheduling Order or for matters relating to scheduling, any application to the Court shall be by written motion filed, via electronic means (CM/ECF). Unless otherwise requested by the Court, counsel shall not deliver copies of papers or correspondence to Chambers. Any non-dispositive motion should contain the statement required by Local Rule 7.1.1.

6. **Oral Argument:** If the Court believes that oral argument is necessary, the Court will schedule a hearing Pursuant to Local Rule 7.1.4.

7. **Pretrial Conference:** On February 6, 2007, at 11:00 a.m., the Court will hold a Pretrial Conference in chambers with counsel. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the parties should assume that filing the Pretrial Order satisfies the pretrial disclosure requirement in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(3). The parties shall file with the court the Joint Proposed Final Pretrial Order with the information required by the form of Final Pretrial Order on or before January 16, 2007. A sample form of Pretrial Order can be located on this court's website at www.ded.uscourts.gov.

8. **Trial:** This matter is scheduled for a **4-day jury trial** beginning at 9:00 a.m. on February 26, 2007.

9. **Scheduling:** The parties shall contact chambers, at (302) 573-6470, only in situations where scheduling relief is sought and only then when ALL participating counsel is on the line for purposes of selecting a new date.



UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. M.", is written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, the text "UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE" is printed in capital letters.